



News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, dedicated to Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri.

News from White Haven is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant NHS. It is also available online by visiting www.nps.gov/ulsg/.

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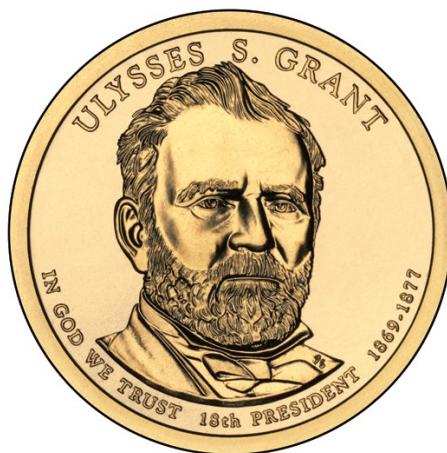
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New Phone Number

The phone number at Ulysses S. Grant NHS has changed. Our new number is 314-842-1867, and the extension to reach the Visitor Center is 230.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Grant \$1 Coin Unveiled in St. Louis



Left: The Ulysses S. Grant presidential dollar coin is the 18th in a series honoring the American presidents. Each deceased American president will be featured on a circulating coin. Right: Acting Deputy Director of the U.S. Mint Al Runnels presents visiting children with a Ulysses S. Grant dollar coin courtesy of the U.S. Mint.

On May 19, 2011, about 450 visitors witnessed the U.S. Mint's launch of the Ulysses S. Grant \$1 Presidential Coin at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site.

This unique event brought together coin collectors, presidential and Civil War enthusiasts, and friends of the park in celebration of the coin release and of Ulysses S. Grant. Dr. John Marszalek, executive director of the U.S. Grant Association, gave the keynote address. He spoke of President Grant's strong support of the rights of African Americans throughout the country, particularly those who had been enslaved. Dr. Marszalek also highlighted the

difficulty and importance of this task given the challenges of reuniting a country which just a few years earlier had been divided by war.

The U.S. Mint is honoring the presidents by issuing four circulating \$1 coins every year, featuring each president in the order they served in office. Acting Deputy Director of the Mint, Al Runnels, spoke at the event about the value of dollar coins as a long-lasting and recyclable resource. After the ceremony he gave each child under age 18 in attendance a Grant dollar coin. Visit the United States Mint's website at www.usmint.gov for more information about the mint's presidential coin series.

Ulysses S. Grant Association Returns to Historic Galena

Galena, Illinois, hosted the annual meeting of the Ulysses S. Grant Association May 6-8, 2011. The Galena-Jo Daviess Historical Society & Museum, led by Executive Director Nancy Breed, did a marvelous job of organizing the weekend events for more than fifty members and guests.

Throughout the weekend, reenactors portraying Grant (as private citizen, general, and president) and other notable citizens shared their stories about the people and life in Civil War-era Galena. On Friday evening, General Josiah Bunting III spoke on Grant's "Strategy, Character and Military Legacy," connecting Grant to such famous generals as John J. Pershing and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Dr. Joan Waugh presented Saturday's lecture on "U.S. Grant at Appomattox," linking Grant's magnanimous terms during Robert E. Lee's surrender to his insightful analysis of the Civil War in his memoirs.



Harriet Simon, pictured here with Ulysses S. Grant Association Executive Director Dr. John Marszalek, received the John Y. Simon Award at the Ulysses S. Grant Association annual meeting. The award is named for her late husband, Dr. John Y. Simon, the association's former Executive Director. The statue of Ulysses Grant was made by Association member Frank Neftzger of Galena, Illinois.

Participants also enjoyed tours of the Elihu Washburne home and the home given to the Grants after the Civil War, along with touring the new exhibits in the History Museum. These tours gave members an opportunity to experience Galena as the Grant family knew it.

The Association also reported that completion of the Papers of U. S. Grant project is nearing completion, and work on an edited version of Grant's Memoirs is in progress. Next year the annual meeting will return to Mississippi State University in Starkville, home of the Grant Association.

Ulysses S. Grant in Galena, Illinois: Then and Now

Ulysses and Julia Grant moved to Galena, Illinois, with their family in the spring of 1860 where Ulysses joined his brothers Orville and Simpson working in the family leather goods store. Galena, founded in 1826, was a bustling town by the time the Grants arrived.

In addition to lead mining (Galena is the technical term for sulphide of lead), the city

boasted the busiest port between St. Paul, Minnesota, and St. Louis, Missouri.

Before the war, the Grants lived in a small home on High Street. That home is privately owned today. After the war, the citizens of Galena presented the Grants with a large Italianate-style home on Bouthillier Street. Although the Grants did not return to

Galena to live, the home remained in the family until 1904, when it was presented to the city of Galena. The Grant home is now owned by the State of Illinois. The post-war home, along with the home of Senator Elihu Washburne are open to the public and tours are available. Visit the website at www.granthome.com, or call 815.777.3310 for more information.

Spotlight on the Park: Casey Family Collection

We have conducted research on Grant's shoulder strap we recently received for our museum collection. Our strap consists of an "extra rich three border" with three stars of the same size on a black velvet background. We discovered that our shoulder strap appears in several photographs of Grant taken in the field during the summer of 1864.



This strap from Grant's Civil War uniform was donated to the park by the James F. Casey family.

After discovering a photograph in Lawrence Frost's pictorial biography of Grant, *U.S. Grant Album*, of an identical shoulder strap to ours we contacted the Smithsonian Institution, owner of the strap, in an effort to learn more. Staff at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. responded, and it was ultimately concluded that the two shoulder straps are sister straps, or a pair. This is very exciting news for our site, and opens up a wide range of possibilities for future collection collaboration and information exchange with the Smithsonian.

Meet the Staff: 2011 Summer Interns



Summer interns at Ulysses S. Grant NHS include, from left, Kristina Hampton, Eric Hudson, Bill Baehr, Melinda McCarthy and Hannah Jokerst.

This summer, Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site is pleased to welcome a fantastic cadre of student interns to the staff. These students are gaining valuable knowledge and experience while helping us conduct some essential projects.

Curatorial intern Kristina Hampton is a master's student in the museum studies program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She and fellow intern Bill Baehr are working on many projects this summer in the site's various collections, including work to reorganize and inventory the collection, and conducting structure condition reports. Bill will be attending the University of Glasgow in the fall, where he will study battlefield and conflict archaeology.

Eric Hudson is a research assistant working on the teacher workshop ULSG will host in July. He plans to attend the University of Missouri-St. Louis in the fall in pursuit of a MA in history.

Melinda McCarthy graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a master's degree in historic preservation, and is working on several maintenance and preservation projects around the park. Hannah Jokerst recently received her master's in public history, also at SEMO, and is developing lesson plans on slavery at White Haven for middle schoolers.

We are excited about the projects our interns are completing, and wish them the best with their future plans.

Kids' Corner: Write Your Own Story

Ulysses S. Grant finished his book about his life, called his memoirs, in 1885. Write a story using what you know about Ulysses and Julia Grant. Use the words below to help get you started. E-mail your story to us at ulsg_interpretation@nps.gov and you may see your story on our website!

Ulysses Julia White Haven U.S. Army Hardscrabble
Farming Slavery Arguments Horses Gravois Creek



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Upcoming Events

- July 23: Commemoration of the 126th anniversary of Grant's death.
- July 25-29: "The Civil War in Missouri" teacher workshop. Call 314-842-1867 x224 for more information or reservations.
- August 5-7: 16th annual Night Walk into the Past at 7 p.m. nightly. Call 314-842-1867 after July 1 for reservations.
- September 17: Unveiling of 2 cannons to be on display at the site during the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Event begins at 2:00 p.m.
- October 29: U.S. Grant Lecture and John Y. Simon Day. Call 314-842-1867 x224 after September 1 for reservations.

Did you know?

On August 10, 1861, North and South clashed in the first major battle of the Civil War west of the Mississippi, near Springfield, MO. Wilson's Creek, as the battle is known today, was a Southern victory, although Missouri remained in Union hands.

The National Park Service will host a Battle of Wilson's Creek

Anniversary Ceremony, on August 10, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the Ray House at the national battlefield. This annual commemorative ceremony will include a speaker and a wreath-laying.

This ceremony kicks off four days of events from August 11-14 to commemorate the battle and the soldiers who fought

there. The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation is sponsoring a battle reenactment near the NPS site. In addition to the actual battle reenactment, the Foundation is hosting music, a duel, a wedding, baseball games, a military dress ball and other period-authentic entertainment.